

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 447
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the extension of the emergency telephone service (9-1-1) charge to all telephone service users, including wireless technologies.

WHEREAS, the provision of emergency communications telephone service ("9-1-1") by emergency communications districts has been successful and is fulfilling the original intent of the Emergency Communications District Law, which is to save lives, protect property, and lead to the swifter apprehension of felons; and

WHEREAS, proposals have been made to this General Assembly to extend the emergency telephone service charge ("the ETSC") to all service users, regardless of technology, so the cost of the 9-1-1 service may be equitably distributed; and

WHEREAS, such proposals would levy the emergency telephone service charge upon all service users, without limitation of technology, specifically including wireless technologies, such as domestic public cellular radio telephone ("cellular phone") service, Personal Communication Service (PCS) and Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) service; and

WHEREAS, to achieve this important purpose, it would be necessary to authorize emergency communication districts to levy the emergency telephone service charge upon any person, entity, or corporation that is provided mobile radio service offerings by access to real time voice services on the switched voice network and to categorize providers of such service

as service suppliers, in order to have a fair and efficient means of collecting the emergency telephone service charge; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that access to the 9-1-1 service is important to the life, safety, and well-being of the residents of Tennessee, and that this important issue should be carefully studied and examined; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the extension of the emergency telephone service (9-1-1) charge to all telephone service users, specifically including those users utilizing wireless technologies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the Senate and three (3) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request by the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly. At its first meeting, the special joint committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers that the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One

Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1997, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

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